THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Government has enlarged the investor category in the news and current affairs segment of the print media to include foreign direct investment by NRIs, PIOs and portfolio investments by recognized FIIs subject to the overall ceiling of 26 percent. It has also been decided to allow facsimile editions of foreign newspapers in India without access to Indian content or Indian advertisements.

(c) and (d) The Government is in the process of carrying out amendments in the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. This being a policy matter, details and time frame cannot be stated at this stage.

Uplinking policy for foreign TV channels

52. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a group of Ministers to study uplinking policy for foreign television channels;

(b) if so, by when the GOM would submit its report;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have issued revised guidelines for foreign investment in television news channels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Government have constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine the proposal for review of Uplinking Policy and finalise its recommendations within two weeks.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Piracy in film industry

53. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the film Industry has suffered heavy losses due to the prevalent menance of unchecked piracy; and

(b) the steps taken and being taken to check piracy effectively?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) According to the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) the revenue loss from film piracy is about Rs. 1200 crores annually. As far as the Music Industry is concerned, the Indian Music Industry (IMI) has informed that the size of the music industry has fallen from Rs. 1000 crores in 1999 to Rs. 500 crores in 2004 due to piracy. The Ministry does not have any other data.

(b) The Copyright Act, 1957, which falls under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development contains, *inter alia,* legal provisions regarding copyright in cinematograph films and music. The responsibility for dealing with offences under the Copyright Act rests with the police authorities of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Copyright Enforcement cells have been set up in most States/UT Administrations headed by a senior police officer to deal with such offences.

Apart from this, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken the following steps to fight piracy in the film sector:

- This Ministry has a Plan Scheme to undertake activities relating to anti piracy measures.
- The Ministry has initiated action to formulate appropriate training modules for police officers to train them for anti-piracy.
- In September 2001, Ministry of I&B brought together representatives of the film producers, multi-service operators and cable operators who have jointly resolved not to exhibit films without valid permission from the copyright holders.
- Recognizing that high levels of entertainment tax lead to piracy, the Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, a sub committee of the 24th State Information Ministers' Conference, recommended that the rate of entertainment tax be lowered to a ceiling of 45%. In the recent SIMCON it was felt that the ceiling should be further lowered to 25-30%.
- The same Committee also recommended appointment of senior police

officers in States to work in co-ordination with the entertainment industry, as nodal officers.

- During the Budget of 2003-04, audio CDs were exempted from excise duty to do away with the price advantage available to pirated CDs.
- The Public Service Broadcasting Trust has been entrusted with the task of making a film on piracy.
- The Cable Television Networks Regulation Act has been amended in 2000, to prohibit a Cable operator from transmitting or re-transmitting any programme or channel for which the Copyright holder has not granted him a license.
- The Ministry has requested Chief Secretaries of all States to advise District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police to include anti piracy measures in their monthly activity reports.
- In the meeting of the 25th State Information Ministers, piracy emerged as a key concern for most State Governments and some measures were considered in order to deter piracy in the film and music industry.
- This Ministry has also made suggestions for restricting incidence of piracy in the film and music sector while considering the on going amendments to the Copyright Act.
- National Film Development Corporation Ltd. has been commissioned to make spots for running an anti piracy campaign on prominent national and satellite channels. This Ministry has requested industry Associations to persuade films stars to work on this campaign in order to make it an effective one.
- This Ministry is consulting FICCI to explore the possibility of enacting an Optical Disc Law.

Launching of Urdu Channel

54. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to launch an Urdu Channel;